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1.

The Academy of Sciences had various methods of determining whether field expeditions were necessary. However, there was a fairly set routine to be followed which applied to almost any scientific exploration. For the purpose of explanation we will assume that an archaeological or botanical expedition was proposed and we will outline the general steps which would be followed.

The idea for an expedition was usually introduced when a senior scientist who was an academician, a corresponding member of the Academy or a "scientific cooperator of the first class" (NAUCHNYI SOTRUDNIK PIERVOGO RAZRIADA) would deliver a dissertation at a scientific session of the Academy (i.e. history of such and such a country of the USSR, or plants of such and such a part of the USSR). This dissertation would include all data taken from available books and reference works plus first-hand observations made by the scientist. In conclusion it would be stressed that there were many links missing and the present knowledge was incomplete, but that if it were completed it would be of inestimable value to the Academy and the USSR. It would be pointed out that a field expedition would be necessary to resolve existing questions. After hearing the proposals, scientists attending the meeting would discuss the problem among themselves and would decide whether or not the expedition was necessary. The director of the appropriate scientific institute of the Academy would make a formal application to the appropriate department of the Academy. If it were to be an archaeological expedition, the application would be addressed to the Department of History and Philosophy, or if it were botanical it would go to the Department of Biological Sciences. At a session of the members of the department concerned, the application would be discussed, and, if approved, they would make recommendations and would pass the application along to the Presidium of the Academy. When the Presidium approved it they

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would implement the plan by including it in their budget for the next "Five Year Plan". If the expedition was urgent and warranted a high priority it could be included in the "current year's plan". In this connection the Academy used to have very broad "year plans" which could include almost anything. The following outline is a typical example of a "year's plan" for historical research:

a. History of the Peoples of the USSR

- (1) Research work
 - (a) Manuals
 - (b) History of Feudalism
 - (c) Struggle for National Liberation
 - (d) Imperialism and the Respective Peoples
 - (e) Prehistory of the Soviet Union
- (2) Publications of first-hand sources
 - (a) Historical works in native languages
 - (b) Papers from Russian archives concerning a certain period
- (3) Field Work
 - (a) Archaeological expeditions to the area in question.

A "year's plan" included

so many phases of research that its proposals for an expedition were approved by the Presidium they could be written into the plan without much difficulty.

After the Presidium informed the proper institute that the expedition had been approved, details would be requested. The detailed plan would be submitted to the director of the department having jurisdiction, and he would be notified by the Presidium as to the amount of funds to be allocated for the expedition. Itemized lists of equipment needed, such as tents, cameras, film, tools and special clothing, would be submitted by the institute to the "Committee of Expeditions" of the Academy. The function of the latter two groups was purely mechanical, as the Presidium approval overruled any interference by lesser department. As a practical matter it was not difficult for the scientist to get his project approved, particularly if he were a persona grata in the Academy, and if he could find within the "Five Year Plan" or "year's plan" a title which would apply to his expedition.

If the scientist was wise, he usually managed to get the local government or scientific institute to take an interest in the expedition before he made his original dissertation at the scientific session. If the local institute was interested, it would immediately inform the local party republican committee. The latter would communicate with the director of the institute of the Academy of Sciences, stating that they would welcome the expedition. If the local authorities expressed enough interest they would offer the services of local people and would agree to provide some of the funds. Such offers made it easier for the institute to get project approval from the Presidium.

Sometimes when a local government was interested in an industrial or economical development, such as the establishment of a factory to manufacture synthetic rubber from Kok-Saghyz (a resinous plant in Kazakh Republic), they would request an expedition to discover new sources of raw material. An application would be sent to the Presidium. From there it would be passed along to the department concerned, and then it would be sent to the institute for action. The procedure for initiating the expedition at the request of a local government was the same as that used by an individual scientist in seeking approval for exploration.

On occasion the Presidium of the Academy would receive an order from the Council of Ministers to organize an expedition. (The Academy is now under the Council of Ministers, but formerly [date not stated] the Academy was subordinate to the Council of Peoples Commissars, the SOVNARKOM). As a rule such expeditions were geological, botanical, climatological, seismological or hydrological, and were carried out for the purpose of developing the USSR

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industrial or military potential. In such cases the Presidium included the expedition in their "Five Year" or "year's plan". Orders were sent to the department concerned and from there the instructions were sent down to the appropriate institute for implementation.

After an expedition had been completed the leader and main participants would make a report in a session of the department concerned. An exception to this procedure was made when the expedition had been ordered by the Presidium. In this case the report was made in a session of the Presidium. 50X1-HUM

2.

It was not difficult to get approval for an expedition, but owing to the unpleasant consequences of failure, the pattern of approach required careful planning. The basic requirement was an unsolved scientific problem which could be solved only by sending out an expedition. In addition, the scientist or institute was required to prove that the problem was unsolved, and that a solution would contribute much to the status of scientific enterprise. All possible methods of proving that the expenditure of time and money would be worthwhile were considered before the proposals were made. The scientist gained moral support in determining in advance the attitude of the local government and the scientific bodies toward his proposed expedition. How far an Academy scientist would go in making proposals was determined by local information and his own observations. Exploratory expeditions were not advisable because the results were indefinite and if the expedition resulted in failure the scientist was in danger of being accused of wasting money, or of sabotage. Therefore, an expedition to explore the possible oil deposits of a certain area would not have been proposed as an oil prospecting expedition, but instead the scientist would call it a geological expedition. The name was harmless, and if oil were discovered incidentally the expedition would be considered more than successful.

An institute could not propose an expedition which was not entirely within its field of endeavor. If the expedition were to be complex, each institute involved prepared proposals applicable to its field. Elements covered in the proposal were:

- a. Aim of the expedition.
- b. Location (country and detailed list of area to be explored)
- c. Participants and role of each
- d. Method of work
- e. Time schedule

The overall plan included an estimate of expenditures and a list of all special equipment. In addition the plan had to show that the accomplishment of the expedition would serve the purpose of developing the socialistic economy or would assist in proving the Marxist-Leninist theory. 50X1-HUM

3.

The primary organization and direction of a single-purpose expedition was the responsibility of the director of the institute concerned. If the venture was to cover several fields, an over-all leader was appointed and he was responsible for all departments. Field leaders were responsible for the actual operations. When failures occurred there was an attempt made to place the blame upon the responsible person. If the original organization was adequate, but someone in the field fell down on the job, the fieldmen would receive the reprimand. The burden of proof lay with the institute director or the general leader, in answering the Presidium's charges of failure.

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Expeditions were organized by institutes or by the Presidium of the Academy. People were appointed by one of these bodies for the actual task of organizing each expedition. The local government was sometimes the official organizer of the expedition. In this case the government supplied the aim of the expedition, designated the place, and appropriated the funds. The local government did not interfere with the scientific organization of the expedition, but merely handled the administrative end of it.

The SOVNARKOM (now the Council of Ministers of the USSR) organized some expeditions, primarily those which went abroad (e.g. Mongolia and Sinkiang). During the period 1924-1935 there was a MONGOL Commission within the SOVNARKOM. This group was engaged in research work in Outer Mongolia and Tannu Tuva. In 1936 the commission became part of the Academy of Sciences, but even in 1937 the SOVNARKOM had jurisdiction over the aims of the expeditions and the places in Mongolia to which they would be sent. The SOVNARKOM financed these expeditions.

5.

There was no government liaison with the leaders of the expeditions. Government-sponsored expeditions were those which the government ordered the Academy of Sciences to conduct. In this case the government actually controlled only the following:

- a. The results of the expedition
- b. Finances for the expedition
- c. Selection of personnel (when the expedition was abroad).

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6.

The personnel of a field expedition consisted of a leader, who was usually a doctor or a "higher scientist"; a group of "scientific cooperators of the first class" or professors, doctors, and occasionally some candidates for degrees and assistant professors; auxiliary personnel who were laboratory workers, collectors, preparators, and engineers (when there was mining or excavating to be done); and ordinary workers. Candidates of science were appointed to lead expeditions if there were no doctors or high-ranking scientists available.

7.

Government officials never accompanied the expeditions. If there were more than five people going on an expedition there were nearly always some party members included, and on very large expeditions the party secretary went along.

8.

Secret police did not accompany expeditions in their official capacity. If secret MVD men were sent on expeditions they went as scientists. The MVD did not send men on expeditions unless they were scientists, because their missions of acting as informers and observers could not be carried out successfully if other members of the expeditions suspected them of being MVD representatives. Police guards (regular militiamen) accompanied expeditions which were sent into dangerous areas where there were known to be Basmathee rebels or robbers.

9.

Circumstances would dictate whether local contacts were to be made prior to the departure of the expedition. It was not necessary to make any previous contacts in order to receive approval from any local government or police officials.

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10.

The local police were not contacted prior to the arrival of an expedition. Upon arriving the expedition members would report to the police to register the same as any other civilian. There was nothing special about the registration of expedition members.

11.

Visas were not necessary for travel between the various states of the USSR. If the expeditions travelled into Mongol People's Republic or Sinkiang it was necessary to get visas. When an expedition was to travel in a restricted zone all members were required to get a special pass from the MVD office located in the town of their permanent residence. The restricted areas were:

- a. All of Siberia east of Irkutsk
- b. The Republics of Turkmen, Uzbek, Tadzhik, Kazakh, Kirgiz, Azerbaijan, Armenia.

To obtain these special passes all members of the expedition surrendered their identity papers and orders to the Secret Department of the Academy (a branch of the MVD within the Academy which kept all the personnel records of the Academy members and employees). The Secret Department requested the individual's local MVD to issue the passes after a careful check was made on the applicant. This took about three weeks. When the individual got into the restricted zone he reported to the MVD to register and upon leaving he reported again to have his pass stamped indicating his date of departure from the area.

In forbidden zones there were no expeditions except those sponsored by the MVD. Forbidden zones included the land fringes along the entire USSR border. The depth of the forbidden area in Azerbaijan and Armenia was 25 kilometers, in Central Asia 100 kilometers, and in Siberia 200 kilometers. Completely forbidden areas were the recently acquired areas of Finland, all the Baltic countries, Eastern Prussia, and areas where there were concentration camps. During the period 1934-1937 there was an MVD-sponsored expedition to the area near Modon Kul in the Buriat Mongol Republic, some twenty miles from the Mongol People's Republic frontier. Wolfram, iridium, and thorium were discovered by the expedition and now there are mines and factories there which are operated by the MVD. On the original expedition there were many MVD people in addition to the regular personnel of the Academy, who worked under the direct supervision of the MVD.

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12.

Expeditions did not proceed on a precise time schedule. In the original plan it would be indicated that the expedition would run from April through October, and if the work took place in several localities a very general time schedule would be used.

13.

Usually scientific reports were published on the results of an expedition. The exceptions were:

- a. Results of an expedition dealing with the material having a military or political classification.
- b. Results of a secret expedition into a foreign country.
- c. Information on discoveries of uranium, wolfram, thorium, iridium, vanadium, lead, aluminum, oil, molybdenum, manganese.
- d. Information containing descriptions of areas in which metals or minerals mentioned in c. were located, even if there was no reference to the metals or minerals.

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g. Results of unofficial expeditions to Sinkiang or Manchuria.

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14.

All material which was published appeared in publications of the Academy of Sciences, the Geographical Society, Committee of Geology, or other USSR scientific magazines and periodicals. Nothing was released for publication in foreign countries or satellites.

15.

The scientific reports were just as elaborate as in olden times. They were completely and highly scientific. If distortions appeared they would be in the field of history and archaeology. For reasons of security, geological and natural science reports were sometimes very brief.

16.

No foreign publishers printed anything concerning expeditions, not even former independent states which have now become satellites.

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